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Former spies and espionage enthusiasts from New England and New York state will gather later this month in Weston to form a club to further public awareness of the nation's intelligence agencies.

'Most people have wild ideas about what (intelligence agencies) do,' said Michael Speers of Weston, who is heading the effort to form a New England chapter of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers.

'They have this image of James Bond and that's just not true,' said Speers, a former U.S. Army Intelligence officer and current economic consultant to the U.S. State Department.

An expected 30 people -- including some people never employed by an intelligence agency but intrigued by them -- will meet June 23 to share information about organizations like the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National Security Agency.

James Bamford of Natick, Mass., who recently authored a book about the NSA entitled 'The Puzzle Palace,' is billed as a guest speaker.

'You would be surprised how many people in Vermont and the surrounding area have a connection with intelligence work,' Speers said in a telephone interview Wednesday.

He said former intelligence employees flock to the area simply because 'it's a nice place to live.'

The shared information will be disseminated to the public by members who speak to community organizations or write columns for newspapers, Speers said.

'We won't talk about specifics of current projects but we will talk about the successes and failures of past projects,' Speers said.

'There is a gross ignorance on the part of the general public as far as who the intelligence committees are and what they do,' he said.

'For example, how many people know that the CIA, by law, can't operate within the United States and that the FBI, by law, can't operate outside the country?' he said.